



Newsletter

August 2013

Let us thank the Lord,
who has not let our enemies
destroy us.

We have escaped like a bird
from a hunter's trap;
the trap is broken,
and we are free!

Psalm 124:6,7 ^{GNT}



Photo: Kage Gregory

Our vision: **“Growing a community of faith
committed to Christ and making him known”**

Linking ministering communities in East Launceston, George Town,
Hillwood, Low Head, Pipers River, Riverside & Trevallyn



From The Enabler

Little moments of care
& humanity in hospital
that I won't forget

We're all the same
in the shower

Someone noticed

She noticed. I was shaking when I came back out from **the bathroom**. I'd suddenly been told that I was next for surgery and had to quickly strip down to nothing but a gown before going to theatre. The first thing the delightful admitting nurse said to me when I came out **of the bathroom was not 'Are you ready?', or 'Did you take your underwear off like I said?', but, 'You're shaking'**. It was a special moment for me because she noticed. She noticed that I was human; that I was a little overwhelmed by the moment. I was suddenly naked but for a gown. The **surgery I'd been long anticipating was now upon me**. I was thrust onto a cold **trolley**. **I didn't even know** that I was shaking. But Suzie noticed.

Outside the hospital walls I'm a man with a title and a responsible ministry. Some days I wear nice clothes. But when the female nurse gave me my first shower after my surgery, all of that respectability and human convention went out the bathroom window. For a few raw honest minutes none of that counted or even mattered. In the presence of that woman, I was stripped right back to a middle-aged man needing another human being to wash him. I was both deeply humbled and deeply thankful. And you **know what? That's really** how it is with us and God. We stand utterly naked **before him**. **There's nowhere** to hide. The titles and **outward show don't wash** with a Holy and Jealous God. His intimate knowledge of us and immense love for us are deeply humbling. Washed clean by the death of Jesus, I will forever be a deeply

I will be glad
and rejoice
in your
unfailing love,
for you have
seen my
troubles,
and you care
about the
anguish of
my soul.

Psalms 31:7 NLT

thankful human being. We're all the same in the shower. We're all the same in Christ.

Jesus' love is stronger than cancer

I was not long out of my hospital bed on Sunday morning. I turned around to see the most unexpected sight. Helen was standing at the entrance to my room wearing a white beanie and scarf and a big warm smile. She was carrying a huge cutting of beautiful flowers that she'd just picked from her garden. Each colour had meaning that she thoughtfully explained for me in her card: purple for King (Jesus), red for his blood / salvation, yellow for his Light, joy and healing. There was

also a zip-sealed bag full of different herbs from Helen's garden, with a written explanation for the healing properties of each herb. I was to crush and smell and savour and enjoy each one over the following days. Why did I say that seeing Helen standing there that morning was an unexpected sight? Because Helen had only recently been diagnosed with a very serious cancer and was in the early stages of treatment. She was going back home from my hospital bed to her own bed. The disease and aggressive treatment had left her very tired. But she remembered me. That morning she loved me. **Jesus' love is stronger than cancer.**

Warmly,

David

I never stop thanking my God for being kind enough to give you Christ Jesus, who helps you speak and understand so well. Now you are certain that everything we told you about our Lord Christ Jesus is true. You are not missing out on any blessings, as you wait for him to return.

1 Corinthians
1:4-6 CEV



Riverlinks Together



Around 40 parishioners came together for fellowship, worship & communion at **St Mary Magdalene's** George Town on 30th June.

As always the service was followed by conversation and laughter over a delicious shared lunch.



Trish gave an interesting and informative sermon abridging **Martin Luther's** reformation teaching.

Our next opportunity to share together is 10am on 25th **August** at **St David's** Riverside.



Revving a Church's 'Growth Engines'



A church should always be structured around the foundation of the Word of God and prayer. God speaks to us through His Word and by His Spirit. And churches have erred by reducing the significance of the authority of the Word, or by slipping to trust more in human means than in God. Servants plant and water, but it is God who gives the growth.(1 Cor 3:5-7)

And yet, both a natural and good question to ask is how one can plant and water in a way that may be most effective. Faithfulness is certainly critical, and at the same time effectiveness should not be ignored. We want to see as many people come to know Christ as we can. Most (both ministers and lay people) would testify to having too much to do, and at times it can be a struggle to know where to focus.

Dr Paul Borden, with the experience of working with over 500 churches over more than a decade across many countries, **suggests three human 'growth engines' of a typical church:**

Welcoming and Integration - over time, and unwittingly, churches have a tendency to more resemble clubs for insiders, rather than being genuinely welcoming of outsiders. The problem is that

most churches think they are welcoming, because the conclusion is reached by those who are insiders, rather than from research among those who have visited.

Sunday services - If regulars have gone through the effort and work to invite friends, the **'shopfront' is the Sunday meeting.** The Word of God is central – so the quality of preaching is important, as is every other aspect of the meeting. The atmosphere is also important. Regulars get used to and tolerate many things because of the strength of and value of relationships. But visitors think differently.

Children's and Youth Ministries - all people are important before God. However, focusing on Children and Youth (and particularly **children's ministries**) is a way to reach the whole family. Parents often go through a period of reflection about values when they have young children. In other words, they are ripe to hear of Jesus saving love.

There is so much to do. It can be difficult to work out where to start. Here are some priority suggestions from one of the **world's leading church consultants.**

by Raj Gupta

This article first appeared at www.sydneyanglicans.net Mission-minded church

O Lord God,
empower me
with your Spirit
as I seek to not
only "practice
what I preach,"
but also show
my obedience
to your will
and live
consistently
with your
character in
my daily life.

Riverlinks

August 2013	
1 st Thur	mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
2 nd Fri	<i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town
3 rd Sat	Women's Breakfast & Kitchen Reno Fundraiser sale – 8:00am at St John's L'ton Global Challenge Conference – 10:00am at Punchbowl Christian Centre
4 th Sun	Kids' Church – 10:30am at St Oswald's Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
5 th Mon	
6 th Tue	<i>(each Tuesday)</i> Prayer Group – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town Home & Study Groups – 1:45pm at Igglesden's home – 7:30pm at Booth's home – 7:30pm at Pedley's home – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's
7 th Wed	<i>(each Wednesday)</i> Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's
8 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Make Poverty History Electoral Forum – 7:00pm in L'ton Town Hall Reception Room Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm

August 2013	
9 th Fri	
10 th Sat	
11 th Sun	
12 th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
13 th Tue	
14 th Wed	RSVPs close for TBF at St Aidan's
15 th Thur	
16 th Fri	
17 th Sat	Tasmanian Bible Forum – 10:00am to 3:00pm at St Aidan's with Rev Adrian Lane
18 th Sun	Prescare Legana – 10:45am
19 th Mon	
20 th Tue	

The deadline for the August Newsletter edition is 23rd August

Calendar

August 2013	
21 st Wed	St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
22 nd Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's
23 rd Fri	
24 th Sat	
25 th Sun	Riverlinks Together – 10:00am at St David's speaker Mark Barry from Bible Society then shared lunch & Parish Annual Meeting CCCGT Service – 6:00pm
26 th Mon	
27 th Tue	
28 th Wed	
29 th Thur	Tamar Park – 1:45pm
30 th Fri	Youth Group – 7:30 to 9:30pm at St Aidan's
31 st Sat	

September and other dates 2013	
1 st September	Hope For Creation – a day of prayer & committing to action on climate change
11 th - 13 th September	Clergy Conference
13 th October	Riverlinks Together at St Aidan's with Bishop John
20 th October	Preaching Workshop

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
4 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
11 th	10:00 am	Communion	
18 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
25 th	-	No service	
George Town			
4 th	9:00 am	Hillwood	Communion
	9:00 am	Pipers River	Morning Prayer
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
11 th	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Together @ 10.30
18 th	9:00 am	Pipers River	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
25 th	-	No services	
Riverside & Trevallyn			
4 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
11 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & worship
	5:00 pm	Trevallyn	Communion
18 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
25 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
		Followed by lunch & PAM	
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
11 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
18 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
25 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	

Please send articles, comments, information & photos to the Parish Office
399 West Tamar, Riverside - 6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au

Tasmanian Bible Forums

Three meaty parables for the slack, cosy & frightened

with Revd Adrian Lane

Saturday 17th August
10.00am – 3.00pm



@ St Aidan's East Launceston

\$15 (includes morning tea & lunch)

Registrations close 14th August, contact the Parish office TODAY to book your place!

Women's Breakfast & Kitchen Reno Fundraiser for St John's

8am, Saturday 3rd August
in the Parish Centre

If you want to clean out your cupboards and donate clothes, shoes, handbags, accessories, etc. they would be very happy for the donation at the Parish Centre during business hours, or find a bargain by going along to the breakfast at 8am.

Riverlinks Together
Sunday 25th August

10am at St David's Riverside

Please bring a plate of finger food to share in lunch after the service
Parish Annual Meeting will follow

Men's Bible Conference

will be held on

Saturday 5 October

at the Branch Christian Church

Contact Ben for more details
mens.bible.conf@gmail.com



News From The Bishop

BISHOP'S PRAYER RETREAT

This is always a special annual time with the Lord and brothers and sisters in Christ. This year's theme, "Les Miserables: REFLECTION and LEARNING and LIVING," meant that we just had to (!) spend time watching the latest musical version, a cartoon version, a drama version and the finale of the 25th London Concert. A great time! We set up a whiteboard on which we noted themes for conversation and/or private reflection. We also used some handouts, including key passages from the novel.

By way of illustration, we reflected on the paroled

convict, Jean Valjean, and how he not only received the grace of God in abundance but how he so quickly and shockingly reverted to his violent ways.

Dramatically, Valjean wept in remorse and throughout his life he carried the bishop's candlesticks with him to remind him that he belonged to God.

SYNOD 2014 – Guard the 23 & 24 May 2014!

I have called Synod 2014 on Friday 23-Saturday 24 May 2014 at the Tailrace Centre, Launceston. I invite

Parishes and Synod delegates to mark their calendars for Synod 2014 now.

Can't eat
beef ... mad
cow disease

Can't eat
chicken ...

bird flu

Can't eat
eggs ...

cholesterol

Can't eat
pork ...

bacteria

Can't eat fish ...
mercury

Can't eat fruit ...
insecticides

Can't eat
vegetables ...

herbicides

Now, the way

I see it that
only leaves ...

CHOCOLATE!

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www.glasbergen.com



**"Faith means believing in things
you've never seen...like your feet!"**



Millennium Development Goals

The fight against global poverty & inequality

Two years out from the deadline, what has been achieved?

What are the MDGs?

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty rates to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world’s poorest.

Australia’s Progress towards the MDGs

Australia has helped countries to make progress against the MDGs.

In Papua New Guinea, in 2012 Australia has supported immunization for over 500,000 children for measles and polio and over 1.2 million women for tetanus. In Afghanistan in 2012 Australian support has helped 39% of births to be attended by skilled attendants, compared to 24%



in 2007; and contributed to a three-fold increase in the proportion of functioning primary health care facilities with skilled female health workers.

In Indonesia, more than 2000 new junior secondary schools have been built or renovated creating places for 330,000 more children between 2006 and 2011.

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In Sub-Saharan Africa Australian assistance has provided over one million people with access to safe water and 850,000 people with access to basic sanitation.

Around the world hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty. In fact the poverty reduction target was met five years ahead of schedule.

Life expectancy is improving. Each year five million more children are surviving beyond their fifth birthday, and there have been important steps in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

However not all of the Millennium Development Goals are on track. There have been setbacks caused by factors such as the global recession, high food and fuel prices and natural disasters. Progress has also been uneven within and between countries.

To stay apprised of Australia's progress and to find out what you can do to help achieve the MDGs & halve poverty by 2015:

- ✓ Get involved in the Micah Challenge - www.micahchallenge.org.au
- ✓ Join the "Movement to End Poverty" at Make Poverty History - www.makepovertyhistory.com.au
- ✓ Subscribe to AusAID's Focus Magazine, hard copy or electronic - www.ausaid.gov.au/focusonline

Key facts on the MDGs

Significant progress since 1990:

- 700 million fewer people living in extreme poverty
- 5.1 million more children under-five survive each year
- 8 million people now receive HIV/AIDS treatment

Formidable challenges ahead:

- 1 billion people still in extreme poverty
- 57 million children not in school
- 6.9 million children under-five die each year, around 19,000 deaths every day
- 287,000 women die from treatable complications of pregnancy and birth
- Over 34 million people living with HIV and 1.7 million people die from AIDS-related causes each year
- Half of the developing world lacks sanitation

Make Poverty History Electoral Forum

A locally produced short film will screen

A panel of local candidates (Hon Geoff Lyons MHR, Andrew Nikolic & Lucy Landon-Lane) will answer questions moderated from the floor.

Entry is free.

7pm
Thursday
8 August

in the Town Hall Reception Room (upstairs) in St John Street Launceston

Contact us:

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399 West Tamar Hwy
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(Monday to Friday
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Children & Young
Families Ministry
6327 3482
kids_families@riverlinks.net.au

Website
www.riverlinks.net.au

East Launceston
21-23 Arthur St
East Launceston
0438 378 233

George Town
3 Anne St
George Town
0439 821 038

Hillwood
Hall - Jetty Rd
Hillwood

Low Head
Low Head Rd
Low Head

Peacehaven
185 Penquite Rd
Norwood

Pipers River
School Rd
Pipers River

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399 West Tamar Hwy
Riverside

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34 Bain Tce
Trevallyn
0409 799 419



Riverlinks Together
service in George Town

